

County Area Agency on Aging for 26 years. She served as president in 1984, 1985, and 2003.

On January 12th, family, friends and city employees gathered at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church to say goodbye to Vicki Coceano and to celebrate her life. We will all remember her for years to come through wonderful memories and the indelible mark she has left on our community.

IN HONOR OF PAQUITO D'RIVERA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paquito D'Rivera, a Cuban saxophonist and clarinet player who has made incredible contributions to the world of music during his 50-year career. Paquito starred in his own 50th anniversary concert at Carnegie Hall on January 10th, 2005, in New York City.

The son of renowned Cuban classical saxophonist and conductor Tito D'Rivera, Paquito was a child prodigy, performing at the National Theatre in Havana by age 10. It was not long before he became a soloist for the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra. In 1981, Paquito defected from Cuba and moved to the United States where legends like Dizzy Gillespie, David Amram, Mario Bauza, and Bruce Lundvall helped him make the transition.

A six-time Grammy award winner, he has recorded over 30 solo albums that display his command of multiple music genres, such as Latin/Caribbean, classical, jazz, and bebop. He performs regularly with his various ensembles, the Paquito D'Rivera Big Band, the Paquito D'Rivera Quintet, and the Chamber Jazz Ensemble. This year, he will begin a tour with guitar masters Sergio and Odair Assad. Paquito has also lent his talents to collaborations with world-renowned orchestras, such as the National Symphony Orchestra, the London Royal Symphony, and the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, among many others. He has performed with musical legends from around the world, including Dizzy Gillespie, Toots Thielemans, Carmen McRea, Benny Carter, McCoy Tyner, Roger Kellaway, and Claudio Roditi.

In addition to performing, Paquito is an accomplished composer, commissioned by orchestras and chamber groups. He is also the artistic director of jazz programming for the New Jersey Chamber Music Society, an artist-in-residence for the New Jersey Performing Arts Commission, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hudson Riverfront Performing Arts Center, Chamber Music America, and Chamber Music International.

Paquito has received numerous awards throughout his distinguished career, including a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Latin Music and the Clarinet of the Year 2004 award from the Jazz Journalists Association. Most recently, he was bestowed with a 2005 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Fellowship, the highest honor a jazz musician can receive from the government.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Paquito D'Rivera for his many accomplishments over a career spanning five

decades. His outstanding talent as an instrumentalist combined with his passion and innovation has helped to create music that delights fans all over the world. We look forward to experiencing more of his musical endeavors in the years to come.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO BILLIE MIDDLETON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Billie Middleton as she retires as Executive Director of Youth and Family Services after twenty-two years.

Billie Middleton has served her entire professional career in the provision of public mental health services beginning in human services. She obtained her Masters of Science Degree in Clinical Psychology from San Francisco State University, graduating as an Honor Student of the Department, and Summa Cum Laude. She later obtained her Marriage and Family Therapy License.

Mrs. Middleton began working in outpatient mental health programs and later focused her work on adolescents; for three and a half years she directed residential treatment programs for emotionally disturbed, and drug and alcohol-using adolescents. In 1982 she decided to develop a private practice as a psychotherapist. She also spent a year as a consultant in organizational psychology.

In the early 1980s Mrs. Middleton went to work as a Program Counselor/Coordinator for a fledgling organization called Youth and Family Services (YFS) in her hometown of Benicia. YFS was incorporated as a private non-profit in the State of California with an annual budget of \$10,000. Mrs. Middleton later became the Executive Director and twenty-two years later YFS has a budget of three million dollars and a staff of fifty-six employees.

In addition to her leadership of YFS, Mrs. Middleton has always found creative ways to change systems and fund and provide services. She has served on many committees including the Solano County Children's Network as vice president; Chair of the Solano County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board; a founding member of Fighting Back Partnership; served on the City of Vacaville Youth Roundtable; the Benicia Youth Action Task Force; the Child Abuse Prevention Council; and the Mental Health Children's System of Care Redesign Committee. She also served on the Community Services Task Force which is an arm of the Solano Coalition for Better Health. Mrs. Middleton was also the principal force behind the formation of the Solano County Community Cancer Task Force.

Her vision of "Building Relationships, Building Community" has guided her work throughout her career. Mrs. Middleton believes that relationships and community are critical for healthy development, and are what heals problems. This was part of the original strategic plan of YFS that services dealing with substance abuse have to be multi-faceted, family-focused and be strongly rooted in the community with organizations working collaboratively to solve problems.

Mr. Speaker, because of Mrs. Middleton's innumerable contributions to her community and the residents of Solano County, it is proper for us, and it is my honor, to recognize her today.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, legislation introduced today by the entire Long Island Sound Caucus.

There have been a lot of disputes and arguments between Connecticut and New York about Long Island Sound over the years. And there are still some issues out there, but this bill sets the right tone for the debates that we may have about the Sound this year.

This legislation is desperately needed. The Long Island Sound is among the most sensitive natural resources in the Nation. Ten percent of the country's population lives within 50 miles of the Sound. The shoreline is highly developed, which makes it tough to balance habitat maintenance, water quality and access to the Sound. The Sound is also a vital commercial area, providing an economic benefit of more than \$5 billion to the economy of the region.

If enacted, the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act will be a model public-private partnership that will improve management of one of the country's most important estuaries. The bill will protect some of the area's most threatened shoreline, using good science—not politics—as the means of directing federal and state dollars. Participation in the stewardship program is voluntary, meaning that private property owners' rights will be respected. Our bill brings together the Sound's numerous stakeholders—fishermen, conservationists, property owners and recreational users—to ensure that the Long Island Sound cleanup continues for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to allow this legislation to be considered during the 109th Congress.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN ISSUES NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE, CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR SIKH HOMELAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the Council of Khalistan issued a new year's message to the Sikh Nation. It is worth reading. My colleagues and the people should find it very informative. In the letter, the Council of Khalistan called again for the liberation of Khalistan. They noted the progress that has been made towards that goal in 2004 and the rising support among the political leadership in Punjab. They commended those leaders who have moved the Sikh homeland closer to freedom and criticized those who have supported India's brutal occupation of Khalistan in which